

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-03 SSO-00 NEAE-00 /014 W

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O P 261448Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9299

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 5704

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER CGEN (HAJJ, SANA)

REF: BEIRUT 7056

1. BELIEVE ESSENTIAL THAT HAJJ COMES DAMASCUS ON TDY SOONEST SINCE SECRETARY WHO HAS BEEN HELPING VISA SECTION WITH CORRESPONDENCE IS RESIGNING EFFECTIVE AUG. 29. IV WORKLOAD IS INCREASING AT RATE HIGHER THAN PREVIOUSLY PREDICTED WITH EMBASSY NOW EXPECTING ISSUE BETWEEN 250 AND 300 IVS THIS MONTH. NEWLY ANNOUNCED CYPRUS VISA REQUIREMENT FOR LEBANESE WHICH WAS REPORTED IN NEWSPAPERS OF AUG. 24 MAY, IF ACCURATE, INCREASE DEMAND FOR VISA SERVICES HERE EVEN MORE.

2. HAJJ IS LAST FSL REMAINING BEIRUT WITH VISA EXPERIENCE AND EXPERIENCED HELP URGENTLY NEEDED TO CONTINUE OUR EXPEDITIOUS PROCESSING OF ALL CASES.

3. FOR BEIRUT: PLEASE ASSURE HAJJ THAT WE ARE SEEKING HER HELP ON TEMPORARY BASIS BECAUSE OF PRESENT HEAVY DEMAND FOR SERVICES. WE AGREEABLE HER RELEASE FOR RETURN TO WORK IN CONSULAR SECTION BEIRUT AT ANY TIME EMBASSY BEIRUT'S WORKLOAD REQUIRES. MEANWHILE WE CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HER EXPERIENCE AT PRESENT WHILE REQUESTS FOR CONSULAR SERVICES IN BEIRUT ARE REDUCED FOLLOWING DEPARTURE MAJORITY OF AMCIT COMMUNITY AND SUSPENSION VISA OPERATIONS.

4. WE HOPE SHE ABLE TRAVEL DAMASCUS WITH EMBASSY DRIVERS AUG. 31.

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5. ACTION REQUESTED FROM DEPT: EARLIEST POSSIBLE APPROVAL HAJJ

TDY DAMASCUS.

6. CONSUL GENERAL REDDEN SUPPORTS THIS REQUEST.

MURPHY

NOTE BY OC/T: REFTEL NOT IDENTIFIED.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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